In the specification:

Please amend the section header at page 5, line 27, as follows:

~~Description Of Drawings~~ Brief Description of the Drawings

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 29, as follows.

FIGURE 1 is a graph showing ~~shows~~ the correlation between blood glucose level and PKC activity in monocytes.

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Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 1, as follows.

FIGURE 2 is a graph showing ~~shows~~ the correlation between hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) level and PKC activity in monocytes. In the blood, glucose binds irreversibly to hemoglobin molecules within red blood cells. The amount of glucose that is bound to hemoglobin is directly tied to the concentration of glucose in the blood. Thus, measuring the amount of glucose bound to hemoglobin can provide an assessment of average blood sugar control during the 60 to 90 days prior to the test. The HbA1c test is the most common test for glycated hemoglobin.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 7, as follows.

FIGURE 3 is a graph showing ~~shows~~ the correlation between diabetic retinopathy and PKC activity in monocytes of diabetic patients.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 9, as follows.

FIGURE 4 is a graph showing ~~shows~~ the correlation between diabetic nephropathy and PKC activity in monocytes of diabetic patients.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, lines 24-26 as follows:

~~Mononuclear cells can be prepared, e.g., substantially isolated from other blood components, by various methods known in the art. An exemplary method is described herein below.~~ Mononuclear cells can be prepared, e.g., substantially isolated from other blood

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components, by various methods known in the art. An exemplary method is described herein below.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, lines 6-11 as follows:

~~PKC activity assays are known in the art. One type of assay includes (a) contacting the sample to be evaluated for PKC activity with (i) a substrate molecule capable of accepting a phosphate (e.g., a kinase substrate peptide) and (ii) a labeled source of phosphate (e.g., labeled ATP, e.g., radiolabeled ATP); and (b) evaluating the amount of label transferred to the substrate molecule in the presence of the sample. PKC activity can be evaluated, e.g., *in situ* or *in vitro*, e.g., in a cellular or tissue membrane fraction. Exemplary methods are described herein below.~~

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PKC activity assays are known in the art. One type of assay includes (a) contacting the sample to be evaluated for PKC activity with (i) a substrate molecule capable of accepting a phosphate (e.g., a kinase substrate peptide) and (ii) a labeled source of phosphate (e.g., labeled ATP, e.g., radiolabeled ATP); and (b) evaluating the amount of label transferred to the substrate molecule in the presence of the sample. PKC activity can be evaluated, e.g., in situ or in vitro, e.g., in a cellular or tissue membrane fraction. Exemplary methods are described herein below.